While recognizing that some of the standards may pose difficulites for some developing countries wishing to ratify such a convention, we still strongly support this proposal, which will do much to ensure a healthy and safe workplace in the agricultural sector.

Demand for New Ministry for Industrial Rehabilitation

1338. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from professional Workers' Trade Union Centre of India, Bangalore, requesting for setting up a new Ministry of Industrial Rehabilitation;

(b) if so, the grounds adduced for the demand; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic demand contained in the representation is for creation of a new Ministry for administrative control of sick and loss making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The proposed new Ministry would rehabilitate those units which are revivable and effect closure where revival is not possible. The new Ministry would address the problems of employees rendered jobless by absorbing them in other PSUs or by giving them a liberal compensation to ensure minimum subsistence till such time as they get alternate employment.

(c) The rehabilitation of sick PSUs is being effectively pursued by individual Ministries having administrative control over them. Budgetary allocations, wherever necessary, are being given directly to these Ministries for rehabilitation of viable PSUs. The Government has recently revised the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to take better care of workers rendered surplus as a result of closure/restructuring of PSUs. Hence, there is no immediate need perceived for creation of a new Ministry for this purpose.

Payment of Less Wages to Tendu Leaves Labourers

†1339. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any instruction from the International Labour Organisation regarding payment of less wages to the Lakhs of Adivasi labourers who collect 'tendu' leaves in the West Vidarbha;

†The original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.